

In the Abstract

Please amend the abstract to read as follows.

A device for quantitatively collecting, preserving and mailing a fresh and wet specimen of fecal or other biological matter for later analysis comprises a tubular vessel defining a chamber closed at one axial end by ~~a plug~~ an openable, machine replaceable plug and restricted at the opposite end by a narrow aperture. A stopper for closing the open end of the vessel extends into a stick ~~whose distal portion has indentations capable of retaining a portion of the biological matter when the stick is dipped into it~~ for dipping into and retaining some of the biological matter. A medial portion of the stick ~~intimately contacts the edge of the aperture so that the amount of matter introduced into the chamber is limited and the excess stored outside the chamber in the presence of a desiccant for drying.~~ The shank of the stick is dimensioned to seal the aperture once the stopper has been screwed upon the open end of the vessel. ~~The plug mounts a breakable hollow nib and is installed after introduction into the chamber of a metered volume of preserving solution.~~ A cover caps the machine replaceable plug and nib to provide additional sealing and protection of that end of the vessel during transportation. ~~The mail transportation of the vessel device with a sealable shipping capsule that is essentially leakproof. A disposable telescoping handle mounts to the stopper to allow the user to stab at matter such as feces in a toilet without contacting the toilet water.~~ The vessel has a tapered shape to be carried closely packed with other similar vessels in a test carrier.